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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 6 February 7, 1956

Week ended February 4

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AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Livestock receipts at the week's opening were below normal and prices showed a general advance. Marketings increased later and prices turned lower, with late sales showing a general decline compared with a week earlier. Slaughter steers and heifers closed weak to 50¢ lower at the majority of markets, instances showing greater downturns, with longfed steers over 1200# still marketed in liberal volume. Stocker cattle closed strong but feeder steers over 800# and fleshy feeder heifers sold at steady to weak prices. After advancing Monday, hog prices dropped steadily and late sales of butchers were from 50¢-$1.25 lower than a week earlier. Slaughter lambs lost early price strength, with late transactions unevenly steady to $1.50 lower, majority 50¢-$1.00 off.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Unfavorable weather hampered the movement of cattle at the week's opening and Monday's receipts of 95,000 at 12 markets were with one exception the smallest Monday run since last July. Prices advanced that day but were under pressure the remainder of the week and both steers and heifers closed with net declines for the week at most midwest markets. Late sales of steers and heifers were largely weak to 50¢ lower than a week earlier. At Chicago steers retained part of the early strength while heifers closed there weak to 50¢ lower, instances $1.50 off. At Omaha declines of 50¢-$1.50 featured the steer trade with most pressure on Good to average-Choice steers under 1100#. Cows were in good demand and prices advanced 50¢-$1.00, bulls closing steady to 50¢ higher. Vealers sold unevenly steady to as much as $3.00 higher for the week.

At most points steers over 1100# showed greatest downturn, and continued to sell at substantial discounts, grade for grade, from lighterweights. At Chicago the average weight of beef steers was 1161# for the week, a few pounds under the week before but still 61# above a year ago. At Omaha the average was 53# above a year ago, at Sioux City 60# and at St. Louis National Stock Yards 43# heavier than a year ago. Nearly 23 percent of the beef steers at Chicago graded Prime but at other midwest markets, steers of this grade were very scarce.

At Chicago a few loads of average to high-Prime 965-1300# steers cashed at $24.50-24.75, two loads high-Prime $25.25. Most Prime steers under 1300# sold from $23.50-24.25, with Prime offerings around 1350# upward mainly $18.00-22.50, indicating to some extent the discounts for excessive weight. A few loads of low-Choice 1300-1500# brought $17.50, some low-Good 1620-1675# at $15.50-16.00. Most Good to low-Choice steers sold at Chicago from $15.50-18.50. Loadlots of Prime 1019-1080# heifers cashed there at $21.75-22.25, Choice 1171# $18.00, bulk Good to high-Choice $15.50-21.00. At other midwest markets most Good and Choice steers brought $15.50-20.00, occasional loads high-Choice and Prime $20.50-22.50, with one load of Prime 1048# steers at $23.50 at Sioux City.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Receipts of stocker and feeder cattle were moderately smaller than the previous week. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets totaled 13,894 head compared with 17,167 the previous week and 15,648 a year ago. A fairly large percent of the seasonally moderate supplies consisted of Good and low-Choice 600-950# yearling and two-year-old steers. However, scattered shipments of Choice under 600# stockers and a few loads of high quality over 800# feeders also were marketed. Cold and snow hit much of the midwest. Consequently, adverse weather as well as a continued depressed fat cattle trade might have been expected to slow the demand for stockers. However, trading for stocker cattle again was featured by a fairly aggressive demand, and prices on such offerings, including cows, were generally steady to 50¢ higher. At the same time, buyers of feedlot replacements still were inclined to proceed with a good deal of caution in face of the currently unfavorable price relationship between fats and feeders. Consequently, feeder

steers 800# up along with fleshy feeder heifers usually sold rather slowly at steady to easier prices. Stockers 700# down have for a number of weeks commanded a very material premium over the same grades of feeders 800# up, and with the price gap tending to widen still further, Choice under 600# yearlings during the week under review sold as much as $4.00 higher than Choice 1000# feeders. At Kansas City the average cost of $18.14 for all steers in a 500-700# weight range was $2.76 under a year ago while the average of $16.56 for feeders 800# up was $4.55 below a year ago. Meanwhile, the week's average price of $17.80 for all fed steers on that market was $5.61 under a year ago. High quality, fleshy 996# Angus steers brought $18.50 and a shipment of high-Choice 754# Angus yearling feeders reached $19.50. However, very few steers 850# up exceeded $17.50. In contrast, Good and Choice yearling stock steers sold from $16.50-21.50. A few loads of Choice steer calves brought $21.50-22.00, high-Choice being virtually absent. The limited number of stock cows available were in good demand, Medium and Good grades going largely from $10.00-12.25.

HOGS

Hog prices strengthened at midwest markets at the week's opening and equaled or exceeded the highest prices of the season. Prices declined on following days, however, and netted downturns of 50¢-$1.25 on butchers compared with a week ago. Trends on sows varied from steady to as much as $1.50 lower with some widening in the spread between light and heavy sows at most markets. Hog receipts for the week were well below recent winter peaks, but more than adequate for the curtailed slaughter schedules and frequently poor shipping demand. The combined 12 terminal markets and Interior area receipts were the largest of any comparable week since 1952 and moderately larger than the previous week, but substantially below the average of the past few months. Some carryovers occurred the latter part of the week as demand narrowed due to late declines in the wholesale pork trade. In some sections of the midwest supplies of butchers under 240# increased, with about 75 percent of Interior area offerings in this weight class. The proportion of butchers 270# up also increased at some markets. Prices for butchers were frequently 50¢-$1.00 apart on comparable weights due to the wide degree of finish and decided preference for U. S. No. 1 and 2 grades over 2 and 3 lots.

Stocker and feeder pig prices remained steady at Sioux City with Good and Choice selling at $10.00-11.00. Prices at South St. Paul closed $1.00 lower at $10.00-10.50. A few lots sold at Kansas City from $10.00-11.50.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at midwest markets were about 20 percent smaller than the previous week and likewise substantially below a year ago. Despite the reduction in marketings, lambs sold unevenly steady to $1.50 lower, mainly 50¢ or more off, with lower wholesale dressed lamb prices the main bearish influence in the trade. Curtailed shipping demand at some points also tended to increase pressure on lamb prices. Slaughter sheep as well as feeder lambs sold steady to 50¢ higher. Fat lambs weighing over 105-110# were discounted 50¢-$2.00, instances as much as $3.00 for around 130# and heavier. Most Good to Prime wooled lambs 110# down sold at $17.00-20.25, a few loads Choice and Prime, mainly early in the week, reaching $20.50-21.50. Most 111-132# brought $16.50-19.50. Good to Prime shorn lambs carrying No. 1 to summer shorn pelts sold at $17.00-19.75, a few Prime at St. Louis National Stock Yards $20.00-20.50, while those with No. 3 pelts at Fort Worth bulked at $15.00-16.50. Cull lambs sold down to $10.00. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes brought $3.00-8.00. Medium to Choice feeder lambs cashed from $14.00-19.50.

Continued on page 124.

RECEIPTS, SALABLE AND TOTAL OF LIVESTOCK AT PUBLIC STOCKYARDS
Month of January

Market	Cattle				Calves			
	Salable		Total		Salable		Total	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Chicago	220,925	192,030	229,599	193,735	6,408	6,239	10,092	9,289
Cincinnati	18,386	19,771	24,509	24,116	4,453	4,604	4,453	4,787
Denver	75,325	84,355	93,384	108,112	10,504	16,273	10,859	20,715
Fort Worth	38,317	44,303	53,096	58,899	9,738	13,311	15,290	18,235
Indianapolis	41,393	42,489	41,662	42,932	4,431	5,745	4,431	5,745
Kansas City	122,792	97,943	151,056	134,484	7,022	7,713	14,606	19,722
Oklahoma City	57,252	52,696	65,784	58,413	4,248	8,041	4,676	9,175
Omaha	198,077	193,817	200,749	199,077	4,102	5,527	4,412	5,834
St. Joseph	77,305	68,699	78,427	69,608	3,647	4,051	4,506	4,828
St. Louis NSY	84,000	73,142	93,074	82,870	15,339	16,807	18,890	24,093
Sioux City	122,345	115,250	127,868	118,320	7,035	7,703	8,780	8,215
S. St. Paul	100,910	93,350	104,659	97,970	56,752	47,918	67,518	49,459
Total	1,157,027	1,077,845	1,263,867	1,188,536	133,679	143,932	168,513	180,097

Market	Hogs				Sheep			
Chicago	301,522	267,492	342,827	309,861	66,899	62,155	70,289	67,206
Cincinnati	82,567	66,547	89,153	70,292	2,998	3,292	4,574	3,511
Denver	18,764	22,227	68,467	65,601	77,562	73,045	97,735	104,543
Fort Worth	11,427	9,590	87,551	67,952	57,553	51,465	74,243	68,203
Indianapolis	248,125	202,882	248,125	202,882	23,454	20,661	23,454	20,661
Kansas City	50,731	40,744	63,135	56,373	26,327	31,739	57,137	79,033
Oklahoma City	12,846	13,349	94,684	52,962	10,789	11,273	21,381	11,726
Omaha	279,517	246,474	396,008	333,844	61,474	90,595	92,177	113,837
St. Joseph	146,623	122,176	207,572	166,840	23,701	24,079	55,881	66,401
St. Louis NSY	279,615	216,021	333,287	252,894	33,901	29,943	48,874	46,484
Sioux City	255,302	224,952	274,429	238,079	46,308	54,225	59,672	64,900
S. St. Paul	374,475	270,809	397,201	300,784	76,890	63,862	110,049	86,293
Total	2,061,514	1,703,263	2,602,440	2,118,364	507,856	516,334	715,466	732,798

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

	Hogs	Sheep
January 1956	1,876,000	141,400
January 1955	1,654,500	152,200

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Chicago	42,418	36,602	1,232	1,380	55,776	56,085	12,193	15,685
Cincinnati	3,609	3,884	1,244	1,134	16,530	17,483	584	518
Denver	12,772	12,065	331	1,065	3,587	3,706	17,917	23,933
Fort Worth	7,123	7,966	1,723	2,365	3,131	2,025	12,809	11,327
Indianapolis	8,014	8,718	903	1,175	57,218	51,277	3,581	3,127
Kansas City	23,150	19,315	1,478	1,426	11,352	7,056	3,365	2,736
Oklahoma City	11,897	8,741	795	1,174	3,044	2,951	2,647	1,605
Omaha	39,422	38,271	927	739	53,436	41,707	11,329	19,530
St. Joseph	13,864	12,745	683	835	33,852	21,922	4,207	4,777
St. Louis NSY	15,372	14,012	3,017	3,338	56,214	45,462	4,043	3,718
Sioux City	24,117	20,154	599	565	44,483	41,183	8,932	11,159
S. St. Paul	19,002	20,882	11,621	11,568	73,740	61,297	14,954	14,669
Total	220,840	203,355	24,553	26,764	412,363	352,154	96,581	112,784
" Jan.28,1956	246,102		24,639		390,275		120,906	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Feb. 4, 1956	371,500	30,200
Jan. 28, 1956	340,000	32,700
Feb. 5, 1955	299,500	29,400

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		12 months
	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Jan. 1956	Jan. 1955	Jan. - Dec. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	441	584	681	1,891	2,225	32,767
901-1000	1,479	1,453	2,536	6,095	8,611	86,644
801-900	2,151	3,977	2,690	16,183	15,367	163,061
701-800	2,746	3,562	2,980	17,268	17,526	245,933
501-700	7,077	7,591	6,761	34,768	44,818	583,739
Total steers 10 mkts.	13,894	17,167	15,648	76,205	88,547	1,112,144
Av. wts. " " "	719#	729#	745#	721#	711#	710#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.80	$16.69	$19.77	$16.64	$19.79	$18.27
" " " Chicago	17.14	17.10	20.68	16.76	19.78	19.28
" " " Ks. City	17.33	16.91	20.99	17.13	20.40	18.60
" " " Omaha	16.66	16.40	19.44	16.34	19.58	18.49
" " " S. St. Paul	15.84	14.42	17.80	15.06	17.20	16.58
" " " Sioux City	16.85	16.65	19.95	16.54	20.18	18.59
" " " Denver	16.67	17.99	19.48	17.90	22.36	19.11
" " " Ft. Worth	16.69	16.55	18.59	16.27	18.52	17.81
" " " Okla. City	16.40	16.57	19.20	16.25	18.05	17.50
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.53	16.59	19.99	16.35	19.54	17.84
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.41	16.15	19.00	16.09	18.38	17.45
Total calves–10 mkts.	4,113	7,170	4,916	34,140	49,189	551,959
" cows.						
heifers, bulls–" "	2,445	2,999	2,976	14,560	20,821	302,539

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	6089	7871	1404	22.9	22.4	6.9	1253	1249	1158	22.44	22.10	32.89
Choice	14763	18340	11205	55.6	52.2	54.9	1166	1185	1151	19.80	19.78	26.24
Good	4855	8161	6305	18.3	23.2	30.9	1066	1064	1038	17.48	17.67	22.41
Com'l.	718	641	1037	2.7	1.8	5.1	970	926	941	14.91	15.00	18.56
Utility	145	142	444	.5	.4	2.2	922	947	906	12.82	12.87	14.84
All grades	26570	35155	20395				1161	1165	1100	19.92	19.80	25.07
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	421	362	296	2.4	2.0	2.0	1271	1267	1171	21.87	21.99	31.23
Choice	10677	11277	6562	61.1	60.4	45.0	1138	1144	1119	19.37	19.50	25.18
Good	5200	5684	6785	29.7	30.5	46.5	1115	1120	1040	16.93	17.10	21.88
Com'l.	913	921	722	5.2	4.9	5.0	1019	1057	975	14.32	14.80	17.48
Utility	271	416	215	1.6	2.2	1.5	1017	1029	900	12.42	12.78	14.53
All grades	17482	18660	14580				1126	1132	1073	18.38	18.48	23.34
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	262	318	139	3.2	3.6	2.2	1188	1230	1222	22.05	21.80	30.91
Choice	4633	5112	2280	55.5	58.5	35.6	1197	1178	1131	19.68	19.74	25.50
Good	2760	2774	3535	33.1	31.8	55.2	1094	1093	1068	17.50	17.70	22.14
Com'l.	610	491	344	7.3	5.6	5.4	1037	1079	1009	14.61	14.65	17.47
Utility	77	40	104	.9	.5	1.6	1046	940	1018	12.42	12.02	15.52
All grades	8342	8735	6402				1150	1146	1090	18.68	18.89	23.26
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	62	27	121	.1	.3	2.1	1223	1024	1251	20.75	21.76	28.17
Choice	3826	4491	2563	46.0	42.6	44.0	1065	1142	1144	19.24	18.77	25.22
Good	3866	5274	2927	46.0	50.1	50.2	1116	1073	1037	16.98	17.27	21.92
Com'l.	493	612	143	5.9	5.8	2.3	1139	1072	1045	14.84	14.97	17.77
Utility	172	128	77	2.0	1.2	1.4	1033	961	1131	13.05	13.53	15.79
All grades	8409	10532	5831				1093	1101	1090	17.80	17.78	23.41
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	25	37	--	.4	.5	--	1096	1081	--	22.00	22.00	--
Choice	1600	1674	746	26.2	22.5	21.8	1087	1067	1077	19.13	19.44	25.35
Good	3527	4725	1863	57.6	63.6	54.5	1036	1030	983	17.16	17.17	22.23
Com'l.	858	880	746	14.0	11.8	21.8	968	964	953	15.49	14.93	19.75
Utility	109	117	65	1.8	1.6	1.9	907	887	878	13.32	13.12	15.39
All grades	6119	7433	3420				1038	1029	995	17.44	17.42	22.34
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	--	53	25	--	.7	.5	--	1050	1018	--	21.62	30.00
Choice	2615	4144	2192	42.7	53.6	41.7	1110	1134	1133	18.84	18.75	25.21
Good	2903	3200	2682	47.4	41.4	51.0	1103	1074	1043	16.59	16.56	21.51
Com'l.	551	270	326	9.0	3.5	6.2	1028	1054	1014	14.17	13.75	17.47
Utility	60	59	30	.9	.8	.6	942	930	835	12.52	12.74	14.43
All grades	6129	7726	5255				1097	1104	1077	17.32	17.68	22.89

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Month											
	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	33842	33311	10541	24.5	28.4	10.2	1239	1244	1146	22.05	21.92	32.24
Choice	71439	63482	57337	51.7	54.1	55.5	1164	1130	1132	20.02	20.35	26.98
Good	29404	16383	29817	21.3	13.9	28.9	1056	1052	1035	17.81	17.59	23.29
Com'l.	2955	3665	4491	2.1	3.1	4.3	958	963	939	14.99	14.69	18.84
Utility	601	577	1129	.4	.5	1.1	930	938	927	12.85	12.14	14.95
All grades	138241	117418	103315				1154	1145	1095	20.01	20.30	26.12
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	2533	4514	1683	3.1	6.9	2.4	1230	1200	1153	21.75	21.37	30.45
Choice	49763	44248	35781	60.9	67.1	50.7	1137	1136	1129	19.57	19.60	25.85
Good	23654	12922	30063	28.9	19.6	42.6	1101	1055	1049	17.15	16.81	22.37
Com'l.	4341	3613	2482	5.3	5.5	3.5	1048	1016	956	14.67	14.06	17.45
Utility	1455	601	588	1.8	.9	.8	976	958	889	12.71	11.32	14.37
All grades	81746	65898	70597				1122	1116	1088	18.61	18.87	24.20
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	2699	2942	1145	6.8	8.5	3.4	1206	1236	1165	21.57	21.09	30.43
Choice	21444	20324	14440	54.1	58.9	43.5	1156	1168	1121	19.84	19.85	26.17
Good	12691	10003	15998	32.0	29.0	48.2	1078	1066	1081	17.74	17.62	22.78
Com'l.	2518	1069	1224	6.4	3.1	3.7	1021	1044	1010	14.88	14.57	17.89
Utility	295	178	383	.7	.5	1.2	981	954	925	12.17	12.18	14.85
All grades	39647	34516	33190				1125	1139	1097	18.99	19.18	24.32
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	414	403	430	.9	1.3	1.6	1172	1186	1176	21.05	21.63	29.24
Choice	19570	10103	14163	43.7	31.8	52.8	1132	1113	1124	19.03	19.04	25.35
Good	21772	16195	11327	48.6	51.0	42.2	1078	1077	1040	17.08	17.01	22.14
Com'l.	2555	4866	676	5.7	15.3	2.5	1041	1038	952	14.67	14.74	17.94
Utility	517	207	225	1.1	.6	.9	990	983	950	12.93	11.86	16.01
All grades	44828	31774	26821				1099	1083	1084	17.82	17.37	23.88
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	153	28	50	.5	.1	.3	1092	1106	1109	22.27	22.46	29.09
Choice	7323	3934	3700	24.3	19.4	22.1	1081	1064	1056	19.43	19.98	25.55
Good	17204	9126	9978	57.1	45.0	59.5	1039	1045	992	17.27	17.07	22.24
Com'l.	4946	6512	2679	16.4	32.1	16.0	983	1025	963	15.32	15.05	19.30
Utility	504	702	358	1.7	3.4	2.1	863	965	901	12.93	12.41	15.77
All grades	30130	20302	16765				1038	1039	1000	17.48	16.86	22.46
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	101	236	143	.3	.9	.5	1044	1116	1105	21.61	21.94	29.85
Choice	18110	12310	10774	52.6	49.4	40.2	1123	1108	1106	18.99	19.26	25.29
Good	13754	8182	14186	39.9	32.9	53.0	1076	1077	1026	16.57	16.41	21.86
Com'l.	2175	3880	1413	6.3	15.6	5.3	1040	1048	980	14.32	14.15	17.62
Utility	291	297	270	.9	1.2	1.0	890	918	893	12.21	11.28	14.94
All grades	34431	24905	26786				1097	1086	1055	17.72	17.51	23.08

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955	Feb. 2 1956	Jan. 26 1956	Feb. 3 1955
	DENVER 1/											
Prime	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice	2901	3603	2378	71.6	69.3	71.8	1173	1177	1091	19.44	18.86	25.71
Good	1112	1543	899	27.4	29.7	27.2	1126	1115	1086	17.80	17.96	23.94
Com'l.	42	53	34	1.0	1.0	1.0	1175	1087	1149	13.75	14.57	16.12
Utility	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
All grades	4055	5199	3311				1160	1158	1090	18.94	18.56	25.13
Grade	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955
	DENVER 1/											
Prime	558	551	24	2.8	3.8	.2	1149	1150	938	22.72	22.77	27.00
Choice	13374	7797	12088	66.2	54.0	75.0	1158	1109	1099	19.54	20.25	25.68
Good	6087	5771	3920	30.2	39.9	24.3	1119	1106	1050	18.06	17.51	23.73
Com'l.	170	313	57	.8	2.2	.4	1164	1103	956	14.17	14.75	17.90
Utility	3	9	19	--	.1	.1	1082	849	1055	12.50	13.00	14.18
All grades	20192	14441	16108				1146	1109	1083	19.14	19.53	25.19

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and Mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.
Feb. 4, 1956	363	203.6	130	14.6	1,371	179.9	307	15.4	413.5	49.4
Jan. 28, 1956	386	216.5	127	14.2	1,299	170.4	319	15.3	416.4	46.8
Jan. 21, 1956 1/	395	220.4	132	14.8	1,624	214.4	304	14.6	464.2	58.5
Feb. 5, 1955	332	177.4	133	14.8	1,175	159.7	264	13.0	364.9	40.4
Percentage change from:										
Jan. 28, 1956	-6	-6	+2	+3	+6	+6	-4	+1	-1	+6
Feb. 5, 1955	+9	+15	-2	-1	+17	+13	+16	+18	+13	+22

Week ended	Average weight (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs 2/		Sheep and Lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	
Feb. 4, 1956	1,020	561	205	112	236	131	102	50	15.3
Jan. 28, 1956	1,020	561	205	112	236	131	100	48	15.3
Jan. 21, 1956	1,015	558	205	112	240	132	100	48	15.2
Feb. 5, 1955	981	534	205	111	242	136	103	49	14.2

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Boston, New York City Area	13,362	10,984	10,347	10,751	55,685	50,401	46,708	47,574
Baltimore, Philadelphia	8,246	7,597	1,028	1,207	29,648	23,685	2,435	1,777
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,481	15,426	6,132	5,645	99,022	88,225	13,734	12,375
Chicago Area	26,220	24,086	6,919	7,899	50,564	64,267	6,945	6,559
St. Paul-Wis Areas	27,845	27,929	31,696	31,668	129,294	114,803	17,645	13,604
St. Louis Area	13,961	12,836	3,719	5,428	81,616	69,066	8,924	7,208
Sioux City	11,084	8,522	53	3	25,799	26,088	6,124	6,164
Omaha Area	32,588	31,049	882	809	84,552	68,914	17,249	20,355
Kansas City	15,511	12,876	2,730	2,898	35,883	23,903	12,882	7,913
Iowa-So. Minnesota	27,885	26,374	13,175	14,119	332,206	266,878	33,806	32,873
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,158	8,713	6,704	7,168	52,102	40,396	Not available.	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,241	6,168	2,625	3,151	30,431	23,358	--	--
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	19,294	18,015	3,537	2,886	59,118	49,156	14,640	12,413
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	13,166	15,395	4,313	5,408	28,847	21,015	15,084	8,729
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	16,869	15,646	611	910	18,157	15,935	25,498	20,786
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	28,927	25,454	3,100	2,728	36,420	33,978	34,536	26,549
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,175	6,332	374	344	15,837	14,684	8,646	3,980
Total	294,013	273,402	97,945	103,022	1,165,181	994,752	264,856	228,859
Accumulation to date ...	1,558,534	1,480,808	515,669	522,908	6,389,935	5,469,610	1,313,873	1,257,946

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS.

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
						Feeders and stockers							
Feb. 3, 1956	2	25	6	10	5	16	7	2	8	20	50	18	40
Jan. 27, 1956	3	26	8	11	5	22	7	4	5	20	50	20	40
Feb. 4, 1955	3	25	12	13	3	20	10	7	10	25	55	43	55
						Slaughter cows							
Feb. 3, 1956	8	8	11	13	17	11	33	16	15	20	12	21	18
Jan. 27, 1956	7	7	11	10	17	10	33	14	15	12	13	19	25
Feb. 4, 1955	13	9	12	15	15	10	30	24	30	12	15	20	27

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers –									
Prime 900–1100#	23.68	23.48	32.15	22.40	22.28	30.25	22.32	22.75	30.88
1100–1300	23.12	22.98	33.55	21.78	21.70	30.50	21.95	22.38	32.35
Choice 900–1100	20.80	20.80	28.18	19.92	19.80	25.75	19.85	20.12	26.90
1100–1300	20.05	19.75	28.05	19.08	19.05	25.80	19.52	19.88	26.80
Good 900–1100	17.78	17.72	22.18	16.68	16.65	21.05	16.70	17.02	21.40
Com'l. All wts.	15.02	14.82	17.90	14.90	14.75	17.35	14.18	14.75	17.50
Heifers –									
Prime 600–800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	19.28	19.58	24.25	19.18	19.25	23.00	18.70	18.82	23.50
Good 500–900	16.42	16.65	20.25	16.48	16.33	19.00	16.17	16.28	19.32
Com'l. All wts.	13.78	13.70	16.55	14.40	14.00	15.25	13.60	13.50	15.00
Cows – All weights									
Commercial	12.72	12.30	13.42	12.42	12.42	12.55	12.12	11.65	12.12
Utility	11.42	11.08	11.55	11.35	11.35	11.25	10.88	10.52	10.90
Canner & Cutter	10.25	9.75	10.10	10.16	9.90	9.68	9.50	9.25	9.20
Bulls – All weights –									
Good	13.10	12.75	13.30	--	--	--	13.08	12.88	11.75
Utility & Commercial	15.16	14.82	15.30	13.50	13.44	12.98	13.68	13.44	13.30
Vealers – All weights –									
Choice & Prime	29.80	28.80	30.00	25.70	23.60	24.50	21.50	20.45	22.20
Com'l. & Good	24.00	22.90	23.20	19.80	18.30	19.00	16.50	16.00	17.10
Calves – 500# down									
Choice & Prime	20.50	19.40	23.50	17.75	17.35	17.65	17.75	17.50	19.90
Com'l. & Good	15.50	14.50	17.50	14.75	14.45	14.65	14.00	14.00	15.60
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers –									
Choice 500–800#	20.00	20.00	22.25	19.62	19.32	23.00	19.38	19.38	22.50
Good " "	17.50	17.50	19.75	18.00	17.38	20.50	17.50	17.50	20.00
Medium 500–1000	14.75	14.75	17.00	15.25	15.00	17.75	14.88	14.88	17.25
Heifers –									
Choice 500–750	17.00	17.00	18.50	17.00	16.25	19.25	16.62	16.50	18.00
Med. & Gd. " "	13.75	13.75	15.50	14.25	13.75	16.00	13.62	13.50	14.25
Cows – All weights –									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.00	10.70	11.25	10.88	10.38	10.25
Calves – 300–500# –									
Steers –									
Good & Choice	20.75	20.75	22.00	20.00	19.70	21.75	20.75	20.75	22.00
Heifers –									
Good & Choice	17.25	17.25	18.50	17.25	16.75	18.75	17.12	17.12	18.25

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	13.60	13.10	16.62	11.78	11.59	15.25	13.30	12.85	17.15
2 & 3	180–200	14.38	13.60	17.54	13.23	13.04	16.60	14.45	13.55	17.60
	200–220	14.34	13.50	17.42	13.63	13.42	16.89	14.42	13.55	17.50
	220–240	14.15	13.35	17.24	13.28	13.07	16.51	14.22	13.35	17.22
	240–270	13.40	12.60	16.38	12.71	12.55	15.89	13.62	12.88	16.52
	270–300	12.85	12.05	15.88	12.13	11.96	15.14	12.88	12.30	15.75
Sows –										
	300–330#	11.85	11.15	15.22	11.62	11.55	14.57	11.20	10.70	15.40
	360–400	11.22	10.70	14.88	11.12	10.99	13.99	10.55	10.15	15.00
	450–550	10.60	10.05	13.90	10.38	10.32	12.83	9.68	9.08	14.35
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
		Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	--	--	--	13.85	13.30	17.48	--	--	--
2 & 3	180–200	14.05	13.90	17.26	14.38	13.80	17.68	14.00	14.06	--
	200–220	14.05	13.90	17.26	14.32	13.78	17.54	14.14	14.18	17.00
	220–240	14.05	13.90	17.05	14.08	13.50	17.18	14.05	14.11	16.92
	240–270	13.55	13.30	16.38	13.48	12.95	16.40	13.62	13.62	16.20
	270–300	12.90	12.76	15.40	12.70	12.10	15.82	12.92	13.98	15.38
Sows –										
	300–330#	11.48	11.40	--	11.42	10.65	15.48	11.98	11.65	15.12
	360–400	11.48	11.40	14.60	11.05	10.28	15.10	11.58	11.42	14.72
	450–550	10.42	10.70	13.92	10.45	9.80	14.22	10.68	10.55	13.78
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
		Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	13.18	13.52	17.22	14.81	13.72	18.78	15.22	13.94	18.94
2 & 3	180–200	14.10	14.10	17.22	15.20	14.28	18.84	15.97	14.62	19.22
	200–220	14.10	14.10	17.10	15.20	14.35	18.84	15.97	14.62	19.22
	220–240	13.98	13.92	16.60	14.94	14.00	18.31	15.69	14.31	19.12
	240–270	13.40	13.52	15.80	14.41	13.28	17.62	14.56	13.28	18.12
	270–300	--	--	15.12	13.19	12.25	16.88	14.19	12.94	17.41
Sows –										
	300–330#	11.42	11.55	14.52	11.12	10.56	15.50	13.19	12.06	16.56
	360–400	11.12	11.22	14.05	11.12	10.50	15.50	12.19	11.38	16.06
	450–550	10.32	10.82	13.02	10.25	9.31	13.50	11.28	10.47	15.06
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	10.65	10.40	17.52	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 4,1956	13.60	13.89	13.87	13.68	13.45	13.79	13.28	14.04	13.66
	Jan. 28,1956	12.90	13.25	13.71	13.57	13.75	13.64	13.49	13.16	13.38
	Feb. 5,1955	16.44	17.14	16.71	16.17	15.97	16.73	16.22	17.07	16.51
Sows	Feb. 4,1956	10.84	10.98	10.74	11.07	11.09	10.92	11.02	10.14	10.81
	Jan. 28,1956	10.26	10.00	10.36	10.94	10.87	10.54	11.06	9.39	10.34
	Feb. 5,1955	14.42	14.54	14.39	14.07	14.00	14.34	13.74	14.45	14.26
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 4,1956	239	222	226	235	238	224	225	226	229
	Jan. 28,1956	237	223	227	233	235	224	223	225	228
	Feb. 5,1955	251	224	235	253	254	233	235	229	240
Sows	Feb. 4,1956	444	418	435	427	413	400	412	456	428
	Jan. 28,1956	449	424	438	425	436	409	414	461	434
	Feb. 5,1955	451	426	438	457	452	424	422	454	442
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 4,1956	46660	48560	10238	47804	39837	30378	66339	51786	341602
	Jan. 28,1956	40790	51962	9552	40531	39324	24659	60572	52964	320354
	Feb. 5,1955	47497	40810	6494	37968	37957	20268	55850	47997	294841
Sows	Feb. 4,1956	4054	3019	490	2816	1385	1969	3169	3523	20425
	Jan. 28,1956	4700	3540	734	2595	1504	1519	3437	3455	21484
	Feb. 5,1955	2656	1831	287	1838	1159	1035	1793	2258	12857
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Feb. 4,1956	8	6	5	6	3	6	5	6	6
	Jan. 28,1956	10	6	7	6	4	6	5	6	6
	Feb. 5,1955	5	4	4	5	3	5	3	4	4

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Feb. 4, 1956	$16.28	$14.38	+$1.90
Jan. 28, 1956	16.03	13.60	+ 2.43
Feb. 5, 1955	18.93	17.54	+ 1.39

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S. No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Feb. 4, 1956	13.60	125.5	10.8
Jan. 28, 1956	12.90	123.9	10.4
Feb. 5, 1955	16.44	152.3	10.8

1/ Simple average price.

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -				Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts Jan. 1956	11.47	12.06	12.04	11.57	11.56	11.96	11.48	12.10	11.70
Dec. 1955	10.73	11.28	10.72	10.46	10.35	10.72	10.24	11.29	10.67
Jan. 1955	16.75	17.45	17.01	16.53	16.21	16.92	16.68	17.42	16.82
Sows Jan. 1956	9.22	9.26	9.28	9.38	9.29	9.54	9.29	8.65	9.21
Dec. 1955	8.78	8.47	8.58	8.54	8.22	8.76	8.18	7.87	8.44
Jan. 1955	14.47	14.70	14.64	14.42	14.11	14.58	14.34	14.37	14.43
AVERAGE WEIGHT -				Pounds					
Barrows and gilts Jan. 1956	241	226	229	234	235	224	225	228	231
Dec. 1955	234	226	228	228	228	224	223	231	228
Jan. 1955	250	227	238	250	253	238	235	232	241
Sows Jan. 1956	445	432	437	419	417	408	421	470	434
Dec. 1955	436	430	415	412	408	398	413	463	425
Jan. 1955	452	434	447	447	448	426	435	472	447
NUMBER OF HEAD -									
Barrows and gilts Jan. 1956	250380	244692	45599	251077	231761	131553	330129	228360	1713551
Dec. 1955	287645	252429	43716	285932	260081	161376	357664	180442	1829285
Jan. 1955	227053	195551	37212	224602	203646	112196	244350	185817	1430427
Sows Jan. 1956	27882	16194	3348	18475	8918	8933	18322	15890	117962
Dec. 1955	33826	18064	3519	23318	12308	10891	23201	15935	141062
Jan. 1955	14712	9887	1780	11342	7628	5538	9537	11642	72066
SOWS				Percentage of total					
Jan. 1956	10	6	7	7	4	6	5	7	6
Dec. 1955	11	7	7	8	4	6	6	8	7
Jan. 1955	6	5	5	5	4	5	4	6	5

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Jan. 1956	$15.00	$12.30	+$2.70
Dec. 1955	14.50	11.69	+ 2.81
Jan. 1955	19.75	17.98	+ 1.77

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 180-200# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts 1/ Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Jan. 1956	11.47	124.5	9.2
Dec. 1955	10.73	125.0	8.6
Jan. 1955	16.75	152.4	11.0

1/ Weighted average.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Feb. 4, 1956	20.25	19.22	19.35	--	19.40	--	20.00
	Jan. 28, 1956	20.10	19.72	19.60	--	19.82	--	19.50
	Feb. 5, 1955	21.85	20.85	20.50	--	20.88	--	21.00
Good and Choice	Feb. 4, 1956	19.50	18.20	18.42	17.90	18.58	17.88	--
	Jan. 28, 1956	19.42	18.70	18.55	18.10	18.92	17.75	--
	Feb. 5, 1955	20.88	20.28	19.75	18.85*	19.65	19.35	20.00
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 4, 1956	7.18	4.90	4.62	--	7.75	6.50	--
	Jan. 28, 1956	6.82	4.50	4.62	--	7.38	6.25	--
	Feb. 5, 1955	7.45	7.50	6.38	--	8.25	--	10.50
Cull and Utility	Feb. 4, 1956	5.45	3.90	3.62	--	5.50	4.25	--
	Jan. 28, 1956	5.25	3.50	3.62	--	5.35	4.25	--
	Feb. 5, 1955	6.30	6.00	5.00	--	6.12	--	6.00
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 4, 1956	--	17.88	--	16.90	17.98	--	--
	Jan. 28, 1956	--	17.20	--	16.75	17.80	15.75	--
	Feb. 5, 1955	--	20.75	--	19.12	19.75	--	17.50

*Shorn.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1955, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

Month and period	Cattle: Federally Inspected	Cattle: Other wholesale & retail	Cattle: Total	Cattle: Av. live weight	Calves: Federally Inspected	Calves: Other wholesale & retail	Calves: Total	Calves: Av. live weight
	Thousand head			Pounds	Thousand head			Pounds
Dec. 1955	1,617.3	495.3	2,112.6	972	632.6	359.8	992.4	209
Nov. 1955	1,661.7	557.9	2,219.6	955	700.1	409.3	1,109.4	213
Jan.-Dec.1955	19,055.7	6,702.5	25,758.2	940	7,499.0	4,885.7	12,384.7	217
Jan.-Dec.1954	18,476.3	6,540.6	25,016.9	926	7,572.6	5,173.4	12,746.0	220
	Hogs				Sheep and lambs			
Dec. 1955	7,324.5	1,314.3	8,638.8	235	1,154.8	154.1	1,308.9	97
Nov. 1955	6,857.1	1,251.0	8,108.1	233	1,161.6	176.3	1,337.9	96
Jan.-Dec.1955	61,370.3	13,072.1	74,442.4	237	14,383.4	1,908.8	16,292.2	96
Jan.-Dec.1954	52,894.0	11,932.7	64,826.7	240	14,147.6	1,772.0	15,919.6	95

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. "Other wholesale and retail" slaughter is estimated.

MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES DECEMBER 1955 1/

Month and period	Beef	Veal	Pork 2/	Lamb and Mutton	Total meat 2/	Lard 3/
	Million Pounds					
Dec. 1955	1,116	113	1,140	61	2,430	292
Nov. 1955	1,139	129	1,074	61	2,403	265
Jan.-Dec.1955	13,225	1,487	10,056	747	25,515	2,457
Jan.-Dec.1954	12,601	1,551	8,932	721	23,805	2,121

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat.
3/ Includes rendered pork fat. Agricultural Estimates Division.

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading in Metropolitan wholesale centers was extremely quiet at the outset and followed a fair to slow pattern the balance of the week. Total supplies of Western dressed fresh meats amply filled trade requirements. Demand was not broad enough on any session to fully absorb available stocks and a carry-over of steer hindquarters, lamb carcasses and fresh pork loins was expected. Steer beef and lamb receipts were fully normal, with increased unloads after midweek creating an excessive supply situation. Veal and calf offerings were moderate to normal, and daily clearances were generally complete. Volume of fresh pork, however, was only moderate, but sellers encountered difficulty moving stocks, even at lower prices. Compared with the previous Friday: Steer and cow beef and calf steady; veal steady to $4.00 higher; lamb unevenly $1.00-5.00 lower; pork loins $3.00 or more lower; other fresh pork cuts weak to $1.00 off.

Bulk of steer beef offerings favored heavier weights, with Good and Choice carcasses liberally represented. Prime was rather scarce and cleared readily at steady to strong prices, while Good to Choice carcasses around 700# down, sold in distributive channels at steady prices. Trade otherwise lacked stability and prices were generally weak. All grades and weights of veal and calf were represented, and these cleared readily at steady to higher prices. Weight and selection were keynotes in the lamb trade, with buyer preference centering on carcasses around 45# down. Late unloads were excessive and prices declined.

Fresh pork moved slowly despite the fact that available volume was only moderate. Prices reflected a weak undertone from the outset, and early strength on fresh loins was only minor as prices worked progressively lower on succeeding days. Trade was much of a peddling affair at the close, with the prospect of a fair-sized carryover as buyer interest lagged throughout.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Available supplies of most classes were smaller than a week ago but total volume exceeded demand on all sessions. Lamb and fresh pork cuts were under pressure throughout. Purchasers worked on a selective basis for both kosher and non-kosher steer beef and lamb, while veal and calf transactions were confined to immediate retail needs. Movement of fresh pork was definitely slow due in part to a lack in interest on the part of volume accounts. Prices generally followed a weak pattern for non-kosher carcasses and cuts, with prices on fresh pork loins revised lower after a steady to strong price trend early. Demand for kosher meats was generally fair, and prices were fairly well maintained.

Prime steer offerings were sparingly represented in daily kills as the bulk consisted mainly of Choice, running largely to weights 750# up. Prices of Prime turned upward, particularly on lightweight carcasses, while prices otherwise worked weak to lower. Weight and grade of kosher forequarters and wholesale cuts were influencing factors as purchasers operated selectively. Prices held steady to strong, in instances, with strength confined to high-Prime selections.

Veal and calf slaughter included all grades and weights, bulk mainly veal. Asking prices were mostly higher throughout the list, but carcass returns fell short of replacement costs. A reduction of about 2,000 lamb carcasses failed to stabilize the trade to any extent. Movement was disappointingly slow and prices mostly weak. Demand for kosher lamb foresaddles was fair, with prices averaging mostly steady.

Prices on most locally dressed fresh pork cuts were slightly higher on early days, but turned lower later in the week. Late sales were under pressure, with clearances expected to be incomplete.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Beef supplies consisted principally of Good and Choice grades, with Prime and Commercial in rather small volume. Lamb offerings were primarily 55-65# carcasses grading Choice and below. Prime lamb and carcasses under 50# were scarce. Veal supply was moderate, all weights and grades being represented. Fresh pork offerings were normal, and fully adequate as were all classes of fresh meats except Prime steer and heifer beef. Demand was good for the small volume of Prime beef, and equivalent primal cuts, otherwise carcass beef trading was slow. In the week's early sessions squarecut chucks and rounds moved equally well. However, later in the week movement of rounds slowed somewhat. Good and Choice beef ribs and loins of all weights were under pressure, and sellers had to sacrifice price to move large inventories. Trade on pork cuts was uneven early, generally slow late. Boston butts, 4-8#, and spareribs, 3# down, cleared best with prices here holding steady, while pork loin prices declined. Lamb trade was dull with veal moderately active. Clearances of fresh meats will only be fair, and a sizable carryover of Good and Choice beef ribs and loins is expected. Compared to last Thursday's close: Prime beef steady, other grades mostly 50¢ to $1.50 lower; veal $1.00 to $3.00 higher; lamb $1.50-2.00 lower; pork loins, 8-16#, $2.00 to $4.00 off; other pork cuts 50¢ to $1.00 higher.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks cleared at $29.00-31.00, rounds $39.00-42.00. Prime loins sold from $77.00-82.00, Choice $55.00-62.00; Prime ribs $55.00-57.00, Choice $38.00-44.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $29.00-31.00. Choice veal hindsaddles sold at $60.00-62.00, comparable fores $24.00-26.00. Lamb hindsaddles sold at $46.00-52.00, lamb legs $45.00-49.00; loins $50.00-58.00; hotel ribs $48.00-53.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Steer and heifer beef supply was fully ample at West Coast wholesale meat centers. Volume of cow beef, calf and lamb was seasonally moderate. Pork production off somewhat but supplies were liberal at all points. Forward buying of most classes was curtailed, and more heavy steer carcasses than usual were broken into primal cuts to move stocks and increase returns. Compared with close of the previous week: Steer and heifer beef steady to $2.00 lower; cow beef steady to $1.50 lower, sharpest declines on beef being at San Francisco; veal and calf steady to $2.00 lower; lamb steady to $1.00 higher; fresh pork cuts mostly steady to $2.00 higher; some late sales at Los Angeles $1.00-2.00 lower. Smoked meats steady to $2.00 higher except for late weakness at Los Angeles.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# brought $30.00-33.00, few $34.00 at San Francisco and Portland; 700-800# $29.00-31.00; Good under 700# $28.00-31.00, some to $33.00 at San Francisco and down to $27.00 at Los Angeles; Commercial $25.00-29.00, few $30.00; Commercial cow beef $23.00-26.00, Utility $21.00-25.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-22.00. Good and Choice veal under 150# was lacking at Los Angeles, but sold from $38.00-48.00 at other points; Commercial to Choice over 200# calf $30.00-39.00; Choice and Prime lamb under 55# $36.00-40.00, $41.00 at Portland; Good lamb $32.00-39.00; Utility to Choice mutton $19.00-22.00 at Los Angeles, $14.00-16.00 at Portland. Pork loins under 16# brought $40.00-48.00; shoulders $22.00-29.00 and to $32.00 in San Francisco; fresh skinned hams under 18# $41.00-47.00; Boston butts under 8# $30.00-38.00; spareribs under 3# $33.00-40.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $41.00-50.00; slab bacon under 10# $30.00-40.00; sliced 1# package bacon $37.00-45.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-17.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955	Feb. 4 1956	Jan. 28 1956	Feb. 5 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	39.00	39.00	--	37.50	37.50	52.75	--	--	--
700–800	37.00	37.00	50.00	37.50	37.50	52.75	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	35.00	35.50	42.60	33.50	34.50	41.50
600–700	37.25	37.25	45.90	35.00	35.50	43.45	32.00	33.00	40.00
Good 350–600	31.50	31.50	40.90	29.80	30.80	36.40	31.25	31.75	39.50
Com'l. " "	29.50	29.50	37.50	27.65	28.15	32.00	28.00	29.00	37.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	26.00	26.00	29.00	--	--	--	26.00	26.50	27.50
Utility	23.00	23.00	24.50	--	--	--	22.50	23.50	24.00
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	47.70	46.50	50.50	44.90	44.50	50.10	--	--	--
Choice " "	42.80	42.50	46.50	41.80	40.00	47.10	--	--	--
Good " "	35.90	35.00	41.60	37.40	36.00	41.60	43.00	44.00	45.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	37.40	39.30	42.70	36.35	37.00	43.50	39.00	39.00	42.00
50–60	34.40	35.90	43.00	33.35	33.65	42.00	37.00	37.00	40.50
Choice 40–50	38.20	39.30	41.40	36.35	37.00	42.50	38.00	38.00	42.00
50–60	34.90	35.90	41.40	33.35	33.65	40.50	36.00	36.00	40.00
Good all wts.	34.60	35.80	39.40	33.40	32.90	39.20	36.50	36.50	38.00
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	41.60	38.60	40.70	39.55	37.85	38.70	45.30	40.50	49.00
10–12 "	41.60	38.60	40.70	39.55	37.85	38.70	46.00	41.00	46.50
12–16 "	40.60	36.30	38.70	38.95	35.90	36.70	46.00	38.50	43.00
Butts 4–8 "	28.50	28.50	36.70	27.95	26.20	33.00	35.00	32.50	41.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	44.50	43.30	46.50	47.45	46.00	50.95	50.00	48.50	54.00
16–18 "	41.50	40.00	43.50	44.40	43.05	47.50	47.50	46.00	50.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	43.05	42.15	45.80	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	35.25	34.95	55.00	40.00	38.00	57.50
8–10 "	33.50	33.50	48.00	33.65	32.80	51.05	37.00	37.00	54.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	39.00	37.00	50.50	39.70	38.60	55.00	42.50	41.00	57.50
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	23.00	22.50	33.00	29.90	28.75	35.90	30.00	30.00	36.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	16.00	15.00	14.00	11.50	11.35	12.00	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.50	16.00	16.00	14.25	13.95	16.25	16.50	17.50	18.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	25.00	25.00	27.50	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Trading of greasy domestic worsted wools in the Boston market was definitely slower than a week earlier as approximately eight cars of various combing wools were sold. Prices continued about steady, except for a stronger tone for graded fine delaine and 12 months Texas wools. Numerous small lots of various scoured wools and noils moved at about the same levels as last week. Activity in the domestic primary areas was very dull.

Cabled reports at midweek from Australia showed auctions continued at Brisbane. Other sales were suspended, awaiting immediate settlement of the strike of waterfront workers. There was good general competition with an easier tone at New Zealand while the Cape markets were very strong under general competition. Coarse Buenos Aires wools were slightly easier while Montevideo showed a slight rise for all classes of wools.

Fleece Wools - Graded fine staple Ohio delaine fleeces sold from $1.37½-1.41 clean basis, while graded 56/58s good French combing and staple fleeces brought $1.08, and 50/54s staple fleece wool moved at $1.04 clean.

Territory Wools - A small lot of graded 64/70s short French combing and clothing territory wool sold around $1.15 clean basis while a mixed lot of fleece and territory 60/62s average French combing wool brought $1.12 and another small weight of graded 56/58s good French combing and staple moved at $1.15. A car of graded 56/58s average French combing moved at $1.07 clean while another car of low 1/4 blood 46/48s staple wool sold at 97¢. A small quantity of original bag bulk 56/58s territory lambs wool sold at $1.08. About 11,000 fleeces were contracted recently in Montana at $1.25 clean basis. About 75% of the fleeces were 64s and finer while 25% were half blood.

Texas Wools - Most of the 1955 clip of wool was cleaned up in Texas. Dealers estimated bulk average to good French 12 months around $1.35-1.40 in Boston while bulk good French and staple was estimated around $1.40-1.45 clean. Clippings sold in Texas around 25¢-26¢ grease basis, f.o.b., warehouse.

Mohair - Contracting of mohair in Texas was very quiet while trade in the local market was practically at a standstill.

Foreign Wools - A spot lot of greasy New Zealand 50/56s combing fleeces sold around $1.24 clean basis, American yield, duty paid. A lot of greasy Australian 50/56s combing wool sold for shipment around $1.21 clean and a 12 months 64/70s good topmaking merino Cape wool sold for shipment around $1.46 clean. Buenos Aires wools were offered for shipment as follows: 5s fleeces at 86½¢; November second clips at 87¢ and 36/40s lambs wool at 86¢. For March shipment: March second clips were offered at 86½¢; Montevideo super skirted 60/64s were offered for shipment at 66½¢.

Firm offerings from South Africa included type 8 at $1.23; 17 at $1.22; 22 at $1.23; 27 at $1.21; 32 at $1.16; 47 at $1.23 and 48 at $1.21. From New Zealand type 93 at 93¢; 834 at 91¢; 100 at 88¢; 107 at 87¢; 114 at 86¢ and 128 at 83¢. Brisbane, Australia closed on a very strong note. Above firm offerings based on clean U. S. yields, in bond.

Carpet Wools - Trade in carpet wools was very dull. New Zealand carpet fleece wool was quoted at 86¢-87¢ clean fibers present while Buenos Aires November second clips were priced at 86½¢. Spot Pakistan white vicaneer was priced at 94¢. Pale yellow bikaneer at 86¢ and lahore yellow at 84¢ clean fibers present.

Wool Tops - Trade in wool tops was generally quiet but some topmakers had fairly good business at a slightly higher basis. Quotes follow: Warp Australian oil-combed 70s at $1.89; 64s at $1.815; 62s at $1.725; 60s at $1.72.

LIVESTOCK PRICES AT CHICAGO COMPARED WITH WHOLESALE AND COMPOSITE RETAIL MEAT PRICES AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MEAT VALUES AT NEW YORK

	Steers			Lambs			Hogs		
	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955
	Dollars per 100 pounds								
Live animal prices Chicago 1/.....	22.25	21.92	30.03	19.12	18.31	21.21	11.99	11.17	17.58
Wholesale meat prices, New York 2/	37.12	36.74	47.53	38.18	37.14	43.54	--	--	--
	Cents per pound								
Composite retail meat prices, New York 3/	58.46	59.20	71.72	51.05	50.94	58.13	--	--	--
	Value of carcass meat from 100# live animal (Dollars)								
Wholesale-New York 4/	22.27	22.04	28.52	18.71	18.20	21.33	17.96	18.05	23.28
Retail - New York 5/	27.71	28.06	34.00	24.10	24.04	27.44	23.29	23.26	28.93

1/ Av. Choice and Prime steers, 900-1100 lb., Choice and Prime lambs, and U. S. No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 220-240 lb.

2/ Av. Choice and Prime steer beef, 600-800 lb., and Choice and Prime lamb.

3/ Composite av. of semi-monthly retail quotations on various cuts (incl. lard) combined in proportion to their respective yields from live weight.

4/ 60 lb. of beef carcass, 49 lb. of lamb carcass and 62.11 lb. of principal hog products consisting of smoked, skinned hams, bacon, picnics, fresh loins, Boston butts, spareribs, and carton lard combined in proportion to their respective yields from live weight.

5/ 47.4 lb. of beef cuts, 47.2 lb. of lamb cuts and 60.37 lb. of principal hog products, incl. lard.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF MEATS

Commodity	Nov. 1955	Nov. 1954
	Pounds	Pounds
EXPORTS (Domestic) -		
Beef and veal -		
Fresh or frozen	438,797	1,286,082
Pickled or cured	1,208,215	1,184,415
Pork -		
Fresh or frozen	442,030	1,361,495
Hams & shoulders, cured or cooked	1,908,591	1,241,110
Bacon	253,709	371,803
Other pork, pickled, salted or otherwise cured, (includes sausage ingredients)	2,622,873	3,234,848
Sausage, bologna & frankfurters, (except canned)	231,180	116,388
Other meats, except canned	7,308,226	7,254,730
Canned meats -		
Beef and veal	702,228	809,370
Sausage, bologna & frankfurters	695,624	560,777
Hams and shoulders	217,016	132,337
Other pork, canned	378,924	350,771
Other meats & meat products, canned 1/	414,354	340,647
Lamb and mutton (except canned)	26,771	92,904
Lard, (includes rendered pork fat)	66,532,418	55,013,431
Tallow, edible	683,481	489,331
Tallow, inedible	94,084,515	88,030,864
Inedible animal oils, n.e.c., (includes lard oil)	288,410	201,402
Inedible animal greases & fats(incl. grease stearin)	11,472,420	13,539,732
IMPORTS -		
Beef, fresh or frozen	2,627,026	731,572
Veal, fresh or frozen	--	5,330
Beef and veal, pickled or cured	1,042,755	954,530
Canned beef (includes corned beef)	8,480,573	3,913,749
Pork, fresh or chilled or frozen	2,854,192	4,018,033
Hams, shoulders, bacon & other pork 2/	506,036	552,409
Canned cooked hams & shoulders	10,116,621	8,649,888
Other pork, prepared or preserved 3/	1,086,091	1,069,934
Meat, canned, prep. or pres. n.e.s.	294,937	186,759
Lamb, mutton and goat meat	19,763	1,970
Tallow, edible	--	--
Tallow, inedible	173,900	--

1/ Includes many items which consist of varying amounts of meat.
2/ Not cooked, boned or canned or made into sausage.
3/ Includes fresh pork sausage.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

		Nov. 1955	Nov. 1954
		Number	Number
EXPORTS (domestic) -			
Cattle for breeding		2,920	2,548
Other cattle		1,525	828
Hogs (swine)		959	33
Sheep		890	41
Horses, for breeding		54	66
Other horses		184	60
Mules, asses and burros		2	2
IMPORTS -			
Cattle for breeding, free -			
Canada 1/ -			
Bulls		68	59
Cows		1,546	1,224
Other Countries -			
Bulls		--	2
Cows		--	1
Cattle, other edible (dut.) -			
Canada -			
Over 700 pounds	Dairy	1,444	1,551
	Other	127	1,154
200-700 pounds		50	634
Under 200 pounds		--	4
Mexico -			
Over 700 pounds	Dairy	628	--
	Other	255	--
200-700 pounds		4,586	--
Hogs -			
Edible, except for breeding (dut.) 2/		237	5,343
Horses -			
For breeding, free		59	39
Other (dut.)		116	169
Sheep, lambs and goats, edible (dut.)		247	674

1/ Includes Newfoundland and Labrador.
2/ Number of hogs based on estimate of 200 pounds per animal.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

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WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 105

Fed cattle trade continued dull over most of the Far West. Chief price depressing factors were fairly large inventories, muddy feedlots, and declines in wholesale beef prices. Slaughter steers and heifers showed mild strength at Spokane and Los Angeles, but closing prices at other western terminals were weak to fully 50¢ lower, steers over 1150# and heifers as much as $1.00 lower at Denver. Cows were in good demand at steady to 50¢ higher prices. Vealers and slaughter calves were steady at most points with prices at Spokane firm to $1.50 higher. Stockers and feeders sold about steady. Butcher hogs were unevenly steady to $1.50 higher at the majority of markets closing 25-50¢ lower at Denver and Ogden. Slaughter lambs declined 50-75¢ at Denver but sold strong to 50¢ higher at other western markets.

Good and Choice slaughter steers brought $15.00-20.00 at terminal markets, a few loads average-Choice under 1150# $20.25-20.75 at Denver. Choice slaughter heifers brought $16.50-18.00, few loads average-Choice and above $18.25-19.15 at Denver; Good to low-Choice $14.50-16.50. Utility and Commercial cows earned $10.00-13.00; Canners and Cutters $7.50-10.50. Good and Choice vealers cleared from $20.00-26.00; same grades slaughter calves $16.00-20.00, a few Choice 300# $22.00. Good and Choice 525-550# stock steers sold from $18.00-18.50. Other stocker and feeder steers of the same grades brought $15.00-17.50, including 800-1000# feeders at $16.25-17.00.

Direct trade on slaughter steers and heifers reflected an uneven price trend. Sales in Southern California were steady to 50¢ higher, with trend in the Northern half of the State steady to 50¢ lower. Choice fed steers under 1250# bulked from $18.50-19.00, few loads 900-1025# in the San Joaquin Valley $19.25-20.00; mixed Good and Choice $18.00-18.50; Commercial and Good largely $16.00-17.50. Good and Choice fed heifers brought $16.00-18.00. Around 300 head of Good and Choice Arizona stock calves brought $18.25 for the steers and $16.25 for the heifers.

Mixed U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold late in the week at South San Francisco at $15.50; at Stockton $16.00; Los Angeles $14.00-15.50; Portland $15.00-16.75; Spokane $16.00-16.25; Ogden $15.25, Denver $14.00-14.50.

Choice full wooled slaughter lambs brought $20.50 at South San Francisco, 3 loads Choice and Prime 104-105# $20.25 early at Denver. Other Good to Prime full wooled lambs sold at western terminals from $17.50-20.00, late top at Denver $19.25. A few thousand Good and Choice alfalfa-pastured lambs out of the Imperial Valley brought $19.00 f.o.b. ranch at 4 percent shrink, these mostly with No. 1 pelts.